

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND
RALPH CIMMARUSTI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs, patriots, and philanthropists Larry and Ralph Cimmarusti.

With the backing and support of their parents, Los Angeles natives Pat and Ann Cimmarusti, brothers Larry and Ralph opened their first eatery 40 years ago. They were fresh out of junior college.

The first restaurant was actually an open-fronted Hollywood, California, vegetable market purchased for \$5,000 that was converted into an Italian deli. Frequented by the stars that lived in the Hollywood Hills, the deli thrived and provided their start into the restaurant world.

From this humble beginning, the Cimmarusti brothers launched Cimmarusti Holdings, LLC. Their first major success was to build one of the largest Burger King franchisees in the United States, with operations boasting annual sales near \$250 million.

Building on their success, the brothers branched out into casual dining to become one of the largest franchisees of Tony Roma's Restaurants in Southern California. Last but not least, the company purchased the Original Roadhouse Grill chain, another casual dining eatery.

The skills learned in building new restaurants provided a logical entry into real estate development. Cimmarusti Holdings owns approximately 15 properties in the western United States, including office buildings and retail strip centers, and has a construction company active in restaurant/retail center development.

Despite their size and success, Larry and Ralph still look at Cimmarusti Holdings as a mom and pop operation. They also believe in the importance of community and giving back.

Larry and Ralph were key contributors to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the names Lawrence and Ralph Cimmarusti are engraved in one of the more prominent locations at the library. At its opening, the Cimmarusti brothers helped cater the event and served meals to the five U.S. presidents in attendance.

The brothers actively aid law enforcement and have donated approximately a half-million dollars to families of police officers killed in the line of duty. They also support the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation and the Gil Garcetti's Rescue Youth Program.

Education is another major cause where they have given their time and resources, including donating \$1 million to Glendale Community College for the construction of a new Science Center on campus.

Other noteworthy causes include the Glendale Memorial Hospital and Catholic parishes in the Southern California area.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Janice, and I have enjoyed the friendship of the Cimmarusti family for many years, including Larry and Ralph's sister Loretta and her family. I had the pleasure of having Larry's son Patrick intern in my Washington, D.C., office while he attended law school. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Cimmarusti family for their entrepreneurship, their patriotism, and their philanthropy, and wish them continued great success.

GETTING A DEAL DONE ON FISCAL
CLIFF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of getting a deal done on the fiscal cliff in few hours we have remaining. A potential Alternative Minimum Tax patch would protect 30 million taxpayers overall and 222,513 Texans from paying the AMT by raising the exemption amount.

Way back on January 20, 2001, when President George W. Bush took over from President Bill Clinton, the CBO estimated the total budget surplus for 2002–2011 would be \$5.6 trillion.

And the campaign to spend the surplus began in earnest, despite warnings. Leading up to the 2001 tax cuts, the Administration and the Republican Congress were well aware of the looming AMT problem. Negotiators took advantage of this situation in order to keep down the costs of the 2001 tax cuts.

In June of 2000, one Treasury economist studied the AMT and warned that AMT taxpayers were due to grow at a rate of 30 percent each year between 2000 and 2010. Nonetheless, President Bush proposed a \$1.6 trillion tax cut without an increase in the exemption level to protect taxpayers from the AMT.

Since 2001, Congress has had to extend an AMT "patch" almost annually so that the Bush tax cuts are not taken back by the AMT. The true cost of what was to be a \$1.6 trillion tax cut has been estimated to be \$2.2 trillion because of the AMT patches, exploding expiration dates, and debt-financing when the surplus disappeared. This budgetary sleight of hand is largely why we are here—literally at the eleventh hour—seeking to stop tax hikes on the middle class and avoid a brutal sequester.

This body should also not forget that we passed the Bush Tax Cuts under Reconciliation, which again is part of the background story, and the reason they are set to expire again.

Mr. Speaker, we need to get a deal done on the fiscal cliff this evening.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER J.
BECKLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander J. Beckles, a great Bahamian-American and friend, who was on my staff for sixteen years and was my Legislative Director for eight years. Known to us as Alex, I have also heard my dear friend Chairman JOHN DINGELL call him "Little Shaft."

I first met Alex back in 1985 when he would come by my office on the 7th floor of the Longworth Building to visit the late Ms. Brenda E. Pillors, his friend and my former Chief of Staff of twenty-five years. Brenda was my first hire as a member of this institution back in January 1983.

One day back in 1986, Alex approached me saying, "Can I speak with you, Congressman TOWNS. I need your advice," and I told him to come on into my office. Alex explained that he was now working for my friend Congressman Gus Savage, but Congressman Clyde Holloway, R–Forest Hill, Louisiana, had offered him a job for his upcoming re-election campaign. After all, Alex had been the field coordinator for the Faye E. Williams, D–Alexandria, LA 8th Congressional District race two years earlier. During that period, Alex and Congressman Clyde Holloway had become friends, and the Congressman wanted Alex to work for him because of his relationship with the Black community in the 8th Congressional District of Louisiana. My response to Alex was, "If Clyde Holloway is willing to give you a better paying job, take it and don't look back." I'm happy to say, Alex took my advice and the rest is history.

Alex later worked on Congressman Holloway's Congressional staff from 1987 to 1992 as a Legislative Assistant and on a number of projects, such as a feasibility study for the Red River during and after large scale flooding in Central and Northwest Louisiana. Alex was most proud of his leadership in the Gulf States Counter-Narcotic Initiative, a unique multi-state counter-narcotics operation in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, funded by the Department of Defense.

Alex's first job on Capitol Hill was with Congressman Tom Delay, R–Houston, Texas, where Alex had attended Texas Southern University and resided for some 14 years before coming to Washington, DC. Alex also worked for the following members of Congress: Congressman George Brown, D–California, Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, D–California, and Congressman Gus Savage, D–Illinois, where he was able to work on a bill which set the national standard for minority set-asides within the Federal Government, particularly in the Department of Defense.

Alex later came to work for me in 1993, after Congressman Holloway lost to Congressman Richard Baker in the November election

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